

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Original) A wound dressing comprising an apertured liquid permeable substrate and an absorbent, nonadherent polymer composition comprising:
 - a hydrophobic organic polymer matrix;
 - an optional plasticizing agent; and
 - hydrophilic organic microparticles.
2. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic organic polymer matrix comprises a styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymer, or mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a plasticizing agent.
4. (Amended) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the microparticles when in a ~~substantially~~ nonhydrated form have an average particle size of 10 microns or less.
5. (Amended) The wound dressing of claim 4 wherein the microparticles when in a ~~substantially~~ nonhydrated form have an average particle size of 1 micron or less.
6. (Amended) The wound dressing of claim 5 wherein the microparticles when in a ~~substantially~~ nonhydrated form have an average particle size of 0.5 micron or less.

7. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the apertured liquid permeable substrate comprises 1 to 225 apertures per square centimeter.
8. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the apertured liquid permeable substrate comprises apertures having an average opening size of 0.1 millimeter to 0.5 centimeter.
9. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the microparticles comprise an amine-containing organic polymer.
10. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 9 wherein the amine-containing organic polymer microparticles comprise a quaternary ammonium salt of an organic polymer.
11. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 10 wherein the microparticles comprise a cationic homopolymer of the methyl chloride quaternary salt of 2-(dimethylamino)ethyl methacrylate.
12. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the microparticles comprise a copolymer of sodium acrylate and acrylic acid.
13. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the microparticles are in the form of a dispersion.
14. (Amended) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the absorbent, nonadherent polymer composition further comprises a bioactive agent.

15. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 14 wherein the bioactive agent is an antimicrobial agent.
16. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the polymer composition further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of a tackifier, a crosslinking agent, a stabilizer, a compatibilizer, an extruding aid, a filler, a pigment, a dye, a swelling agent, a chain transfer agent, and combinations thereof.
17. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic organic polymer matrix comprises a mixture of two or more polymers.
18. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 1 wherein the microparticles are present in an amount of 1 wt-% to 60 wt-%, based on the total weight of the polymer composition.
19. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing comprising an apertured liquid permeable substrate and an absorbent, nonadherent polymer composition comprising:
- a hydrophobic organic polymer matrix comprising a styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymer, or mixtures thereof;
 - an optional plasticizing agent; and
 - hydrophilic microparticles comprising an amine-containing organic polymer.
20. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing comprising an apertured liquid permeable substrate and an absorbent, nonadherent polymer composition comprising:
- a hydrophobic organic polymer matrix comprising a styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymer, or mixtures thereof;
 - an optional plasticizing agent; and

Amendment and Response

Page 5 of 10

Serial No.: 10/729,114

Confirmation No.: 3162

Filed: 5 December 2003

For: WOUND DRESSINGS AND METHODS

hydrophilic microparticles comprising a sodium polyacrylate copolymer.

21. (Original) A method of treating a wound, the method comprising applying the wound dressing of claim 1 to the wound.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a wound, the method comprising applying the wound dressing of claim 19 to the wound.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a wound, the method comprising applying the wound dressing of claim 20 to the wound.